

# Government Operations Interim Committee

## 2013 Study Items

### **Items Recommended as Priorities by the Legislative Management Committee**

**Evaluating and Adjudicating Election Complaints** – to study the process for evaluating and adjudicating election complaints

### **Master Study Resolution Items**

i. **Straight Party Voting Elimination** – to study the possible elimination of straight party voting (H.B. 258) **(Arent)**

ii. **Lobbyist Disclosure for Legislators-elect** – to study applying lobbyist disclosure and regulation provisions to a legislator-elect (H.B. 274, 2011 and H.J.R. 4, 2011) **(Arent)**

iii. **Campaign Finance** – to study establishing contribution limits and making the violation of those limits a class A misdemeanor (H.B. 311) **(King)**

38. **Local School Board Disclosures** - to study whether local school board deadlines and requirements should match county deadlines or state deadlines. Local school board candidates have the same reporting deadlines as state school board candidates, but local candidates report to the county, not the state. **(Draxler)**

47. **School Board and State Board Elections** - to study school board elections and State Board of Education elections (H.B. 59 and H.B. 267). **(Nielson)**

60. **Administrative Law Judge Amendments** - to study complaints, performance standards, and recommendations regarding administrative law judges (S.B. 191). **(Mayne)**

61. **Agreements with Other States** - to study how the legislative and executive branches work together in establishing agreements with other states, specifically, in which circumstances it is appropriate for only the governor to enter into agreements on behalf of the state and when the Legislature should be part of the agreement. **(Nelson)**

62. **Anonymous Campaign Contributions** - to study the disposition of anonymous cash contributions and the aggregate reporting of cash contributions (H.B. 38). **(Powell)**

63. **Apportionment of Legislative Seats** - to study the apportionment of Utah Legislative seats and the impact of "one man, one vote" on Utah's rural counties. **(Jerry Anderson)**

64. **Attorney General by Appointment or Election** - to study whether the Utah attorney general should be appointed rather than elected. **(Weiler)**

66. **Campaign Contribution Limits** - to study whether a state office candidate, a legislative office candidate, a school board office candidate, or a judge should be prohibited, during any two-year period, from accepting total contributions from the same individual or source in an amount of \$9,999 or more (H.B. 410). **(Powell)**

67. **County Office Election Cycles** - to study in which election cycle certain officers should be elected. For example, in some counties, the offices of clerk/treasurer and auditor/recorder are combined. **(Draxler)**

69. **Disclosing Political Consulting Services** - to study whether lobbyists should be required to disclose the political consulting services they provide to candidates seeking public office and to candidates seeking appointment to a midterm vacancy. **(Weiler)**

70. **Election Code Amendments** - to study the annual list of election code cleanup issues. **(Draxler)**

71. **Election Day Registration** - to study whether voters should be allowed to register to vote on election day and have their vote counted (2nd Sub. H.B. 91). **(Draxler)**

72. **Election Notices** - to study whether most election notices should continue to be published in a newspaper, or the less expensive option of posting election notices electronically should be the method for some or all elections. **(Draxler)**

73. **Elector Amendments** - to study a requirement that a presidential elector must cast an electoral ballot for the candidate for president and vice president of the United States who wins the majority vote in the state, and whether a criminal penalty should be assessed against an elector who fails to cast an electoral ballot for that candidate (H.B. 368). **(King)**

74. **Fees for Government Records Requests** - to study whether to require a governmental entity to fulfill a records request without charge under certain circumstances (H.B. 122). **(King)**

75. **Financial Disclosure Notice** - to study whether electronic notice should be the primary means of reminding candidates and entities of the requirement to file financial disclosure reports. **(Draxler)**

76. **GRAMA Requests to Local Governments** - to study ways to address Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA) requests made to local governments that are written broadly and are typically used by marketing organizations. **(Handy)**

77. **Initiative, Referendum, and Petition Forms** - to study ways to increase consistency in the Utah Code regarding initiative, referendum, and petition forms. **(Draxler)**

78. **Preliminary Election Results** - to study whether officials should release election totals periodically and, if so, how often. Current law does not allow the totals of any votes counted after election day to be released until the canvass, yet more by-mail and provisional ballots are being received. **(Draxler)**

**79. Prohibiting Funds from Fines and Forfeitures from Going to the Governmental Entity Imposing the Fines** - to study the prohibition of fines and forfeitures that fund the governmental entity that imposes them, or require fines and forfeitures to go into a permanent fund of which only the interest earnings of the fund can be used for the budget by the governmental agency that imposes the fines. This way fines and forfeitures would not become an essential budget item for those entities. If it affects the budget it will be a delayed effect. **(H. Stephenson)**

**80. Public Meeting Notice** - to study whether to require a public notice of not less than 72 hours for each public meeting if the need for a meeting is known at least 72 hours in advance; whether to require that the public notice include an agenda on which all items then planned to be discussed at the meeting are listed; whether the 24 hour public notice requirement is satisfied if no additional items are added to the agenda; exceptions for legislative meetings held for any special session, extraordinary session, or veto override session, or during the period of time beginning seven days before a general session and ending on the last day of the general session; and whether to prohibit a court from voiding a final action taken by a public body for failure to comply with the 72 hour public notice requirements (H.B. 207). **(Powell)**

**81. Recall Elections** - to study a constitutional amendment to allow voters to do recall elections. **(Perry)**

**82. Reducing State Vehicle Fleet** - to study whether Utah should reduce the number of cars in its fleet of vehicles and rely on a state rental contract issued through a Request for Proposal (RFP) to handle the overflow, including universities, etc. **(Weiler)**

**83. RFP for State Fleet Car Sales** - to study whether the state's fleet car sales should be privatized through an RFP process. **(Weiler)**

**84. Special Election Dates** - to study the dates on which a statewide or local special election may be scheduled (H.B. 40). **(Powell)**

**85. Statewide Ombudsman** - to study whether Utah should create a statewide ombudsman and an Office of Inspector General, as some states have done. **(Weiler)**

**119. Governmental Immunity** - to study the extension of governmental immunity for privatized government services. **(D. Brown)**

**207. Procurement Code Applicability to Special Districts** - to study whether, and how, to make Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Part 23, Unlawful Conduct and Penalties, applicable to special districts. **(Jenkins)**